

## GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT SUBMIT YOUR BLOOMINGTON PHOTOS

We want your best photos! Help us tell Bloomington's story through your images of Bloomington events, landmarks, businesses, people, nature and more. We'd especially like photos illustrating our rich history and special events. The photos you submit may be used on the City's website, social media pages and in various City publications. Contribute photos by visiting the City's website and clicking on the submit photos icon. For more information, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819, [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us), or visit our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: PHOTO SUBMISSIONS.



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When you see WEBSITE KEYWORDS, go to [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us) for more information.

## COUNCIL AGAIN LOWERS PROPERTY TAX LEVY MAKING BLOOMINGTON EVEN MORE SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE

In September, the City Council set the preliminary total property tax dollar levy for 2012 at \$44,441,371. The maximum 2012 levy is a decrease from 2011, which in turn was a decrease from 2010. The City strives to be more sustainable, not only environmentally, but also economically and financially. To maintain excellent services, the City continues to budget efficiently and plan for the future while being cost effective.

### IMPACT ON HOMES

Bloomington reduced its total City levy despite state changes in Market Value Homestead Credit and relative values between residential and commercial properties. The City Council's objective is to hold the median value home's 2012 property taxes for City services at \$67.82 per month, the same amount as in 2010 and 2011, with the average value home seeing a 1.45 percent decrease for 2012. See chart above right.

### SUPPORTING YOUR INVESTMENT

The preliminary levy sustains Public Safety, Planning, Prevention and Maintenance, and Quality of Life services key to building and renewal, that along with public infrastructure investments support your home and business investment over the long term.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOME MONTHLY PROPERTY TAX COST FOR CITY SERVICES			
	2010	2011	2012
Median value home	\$67.82	\$67.82	\$67.82
Average value home	\$78.01	\$79.73	\$78.58

2012 Median value home - \$207,300; 2012 Average value home - \$235,500.

The final City property tax levy for 2012 will be set in December. While the preliminary levy is a cap that cannot be exceeded when setting the final levy, the City Council will continue to look at ways to decrease the levy.

### VALUES AND YOUR PROPERTY TAX

During this economic downturn, a question often heard is, "When home values have declined, why don't property taxes also decline?" While there may not be a simple answer, a good place to start is with an illustration. The graph, below, shows single-family residential property values over the past 20 years. During the 1990s, market values, as reflected in the median-valued home, averaged about 3.3 percent annual growth. Beginning in 2000, many shifted their investments to residential real estate, which resulted in

a housing market bubble. If there had not been a bubble and home market values had increased at the same rate as in the 1990s, home values still would not have appreciated to their current level even given the decline of the past few years.

Over the past 20 years, the City's overall property tax levy increased, on average, at a rate that parallels home price increases in the 1990s. The City's overall property tax levy, when adjusted for actual community growth, increased at about two-thirds the home value appreciation rate. In other words, the City did not increase its property taxes during the past decade at anywhere near the rate that market values of homes increased. At the same time, service quality increased along with significant investments in the City's infrastructure.

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## SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1947 FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES



This year's open houses take place on Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at all fire stations. Highlights include car seat inspections and air bag demonstrations at Station 1 and Bomb Squad and Canine Unit demonstrations at Station 4. All stations will offer a coloring contest and treats for kids, smoke detector raffle and meet-and-greet session with Sparky the Fire Dog.

### Fire Station open house locations:

- Station 1: 10 West 95th Street  
Station 4: 4201 West 84th Street  
Station 2: 10601 Xerxes Avenue South  
Station 5: 10540 Bush Lake Road  
Station 3: 2050 East 86th Street  
Station 6: 8601 Lakeview Road

For more information, contact the Fire Department at 952-563-4801.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL



This summer's National Night Out Neighborhood Watch Program hosted 328 parties. Nearly 65 Bloomington Police Department officers and staff, including police reserves and explorers, participated in the event. In addition, representatives from the Bloomington Fire Department and Allina ambulances attended many parties with their vehicles.

For more information, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

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